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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

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Fall 11-5-2015

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**Kutztown University Kutztown, Pennsylvania**  
**UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES**

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2015**  
**ACADEMIC FORUM 103**

**Present:** A. Arnold, D. Aruscavage, M. Cardozo, A. Christman, K. Clair, A. Cordner, C. DeMarco, S. Doll-Myers, R. Flatley, A. Fu, M. Gallagher, C. Price (sub. for J. Garcia), J. Gehringer, M. Gober, H. Hamlet, E. Hanna, J. Harasta, L. Irving, M. Johnston, T. Hussain (sub. for R. Kaplan), Y. Kim, D. King, D. Lea, L. Levine, M. Maksy, P. McLoughlin, J. Metcalf, A. Milevsky, A. Morris, L. Norris, R. Portada, V. Reidout, A. Rodriguez, J. Ronan, J. Schlegel, J. Scoboria, R.L. Smith, T. Stahler, J. Van Wyk, C. Walck, T. Williams, A. Zayaitz

**Absent:** D. Beougher, Dr. Hawkinson, S. Mangold, M. Radyk, M. Scheuing, B. Sharkin, M. Sims, A. Vogel

**Guests:** C. Wells, L. Male, B. McCree, T. Witryk, P. Ache, J. Greenwood, A. Garrison, N. Wunderly, M. Geaney

**I. Call to Order**

Senate President J. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**II. Announcements – J. Schlegel**

**A. Friend, Inc. update–**

J. Schlegel expressed appreciation for the Senators' considerable concern regarding L. Cassellia's report on student hunger issues at October's meeting. She gave updated information via Senator E. Hanna (with thanks):

1. Due to PA budget impasse as well as more clients, Friend Inc.'s shelves and funds are depleted. Contributions of food as well as cash donations are needed.
2. J. Schlegel proposed that at the December meeting, Senators be encouraged to bring donations from their constituents. A list of items especially needed can be emailed to the members. Senators please inform constituents.
3. K. Clair: Multiple drives are ongoing on campus; this drive can be added.

**B. How to Make Sure Nothing Gets Done at Work**

J. Schlegel circulated a list of eight tactics developed during WW II to sabotage meetings as part of the strategy to bring down the Axis powers. Jocular – but let's work together and not sabotage.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

J. Schlegel moved to approve the agenda. No corrections or objections. Motion approved.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

J. Schlegel moved to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2015 meeting. Minutes approved.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Nominations of Senate Officers – K. Clair**

1. Nominations for Vice-President.  
J. Schlegel: reminded that current VP J. Ronan is completing her second (last) year as Senate VP. Nominations are for a two-year term. J. Ronan is willing to run.  
K. Clair asked for any other nominations. None forth coming.  
A. Arnold moved to close nominations. D. King seconded. Nominations closed for this meeting. Nominations with statements may be submitted to Senate office until Nov. 15.

2. Nominations for Secretary.

J. Schlegel: Per the Constitution, this position is a one-year term; L. Norris is ineligible to serve a third consecutive term. Since Senate and VP have two-year terms, this seems biased. With advance notice and a 2/3 Senate majority approval to suspend that portion of the Constitution in this instance, the term limit may be set aside.

R.L. Smith: Can the Constitution be suspended?

R. Portada (Parliamentarian): This portion can be suspended with the caveat above.

Call for nominations for position of Secretary. None forth coming.

J. Schlegel: The deadline for nominations and statements is Nov. 15.

K. Clair: Motion to suspend Senate rules regarding the term limit of the Senate Secretary for the 2016-17 Academic year. A. Cordner seconded. Motion approved. L. Norris is willing to serve.

R. L. Smith moved to close nominations. M. Maksy seconded. Nominations closed for this meeting. Nominations with statements may be submitted to Senate office until Nov. 15.

## VI. New Business

J. Schlegel: Two Academic Policy revisions to be considered. Senators will comment first, followed by guests. Statements of support or non-support will be balanced.

### **A. ACA-042: Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal** – A. Garrison, Chair, Academic Standards and Policy Committee (ASPC)

A. Garrison introduced proposed revisions. ASPC has made a motion to accept revisions; no second needed. Discussion.

1. C. Mapes: Existing policy has provisions for part time students; they are removed from the proposed revision.

A. Garrison: A distinction is not being made in the policy.

C. Mapes: It should be considered; if a student takes only one course and does poorly, they could be dismissed.

A. Garrison: Dismissal refers to students with full time status.

2. L. Norris: Proposal requires a 2.0 minimum for two semesters, resulting in a CGPA of 2.0. It doesn't seem feasible for a returning student with a sub-2.0.

L. Male: Students can demonstrate "satisfactory progress" toward the 2.0 and appeal to the Undergraduate Exceptions Committee (UEC), which tends to be favorable. A. Garrison: affirmed.

J. Scoboria: Shouldn't the UEC piece be in the policy?

A. Cordner: replied to L. Norris' question – a student who repeats a course they failed would have that 0 removed; new CGPA could be significantly improved.

J. Schlegel: Problem with freshmen – financial aid problems if they repeat a failed course.

A. Garrison : Do members want to retain the two sentences pertaining to part time students that the revision had removed?

C. Wells: Part-time students are examined for every 12 credits they complete.

J. Schlegel: Is there an amendment to restore the two sentences pertaining to students with part-time status?

R.L. Smith: noted that on page two, dismissal of first semester students with a CPGA of 0.00 is "too generous."

Motion to return the policy revision to committee and bring back to Senate with

correct verbiage. Second D. Aruscavage.

A. Arnold: Thanked A. Garrison for bringing forward the policy; these matters are highly complex. Respectfully in favor of returning the policy; Senators should provide input, and encourage constituents to do same.

C. Wells: ASPC holds two open forums each semester for input.

A. Fu: Asked A. Garrison about “academic progress.” This was in the original policy but is not in proposed. A. Garrison: the 2.0 replaced “academic progress” to address problem of vagueness.

K. Clair: move to close debate. Second A. Morris.

Motion to refer back to committee, and to return to Senate with new revision approved.

**B. ACA-051: Independent Study – A. Garrison, Chair, ASPC**

A. Garrison introduced proposed revisions. ASPC has made a motion to accept revisions; no second needed. Discussion.

L. Levine: Dept. of Physical Sciences unanimously opposes revisions. Restrictions would hinder academic development and discourage individual research, which the department encourages. Early research equates to engagement with the university, better retention and more students pursuing graduate degrees or successful employment in their fields of study. The proposed restrictions would also invalidate current curriculum.

J. Schlegel: Is there anyone who wants to speak in favor of revisions?

T. Hussain: Computer Science department also unanimous in opposing proposed revisions for similar reasons.

J. Schlegel: Is there anyone who wants to speak in favor of revisions?

P. McLoughlin: Dept. of Mathematics also unanimously opposed. Early research encouraged by Directed Reading, even for freshmen. There is a more general problem: policy proposals are rejected because faculty input isn’t considered at the outset; proposed changes the result of top-heavy and over controlling administration. Administrators need to trust faculty understand and are working in students’ best interests.

C. Wells: ASPC offers two open forums a semester for faculty input.

J. Schlegel: Is there anyone who wants to speak in favor of revisions?

L. Norris: With respect, the Dept. of Fine Arts is strongly opposed to these revisions. 6-hour studios make scheduling required courses very difficult for transfers especially. To graduate in a timely manner, many need IS [and II]. This is a retention/graduation rate issue.

A. Arnold, representing ChairNet: unanimously opposed to these revisions. At recent ChairNet meeting, vehement opposition to a general culture of over-regulation; affirmed P. McLoughlin’s statement.

Motion to refer back to committee, again with due thanks and respect for their service. J. Lizza seconded. Discussion.

L. Norris: Fine Arts Dept. also opposes 3.0 restriction. Many students excel in their specialty but do not meet 3.0 overall.

E. Hanna: Social Work Department did not understand justification: “paragraph three was added to ensure that a student is not attempting to substitute curriculum or major

requirements.”

M. Maksy: Clarify second sentence in section D.

P. McLoughlin: Encourage input from faculty before policy revisions brought to Senate. Open forums are great but an electronic survey so much easier; will be more input.

J. Schlegel: Suggests that ASPC announce policies coming up for consideration and solicit comments as policies are being considered.

A. Arnold; D. Aruscavage: encourage leaving the specific CGPA and credit decisions in the hands of faculty for their programs.

A. Arnold: Point of Order: Motion to refer to committee is on the floor.

J. Schlegel: Motion passes. Senate thanks the ASPC for its work and looks forward to return of these policies, further revised, for Senate approval.

## **VII. President, Committee, Task Force Reports**

### **A. Senate President’s Report – J. Schlegel**

1. Senate Executive Committee was asked to support conferring an honorary degree upon Mr. Guido Pichini. The vote was favorable; the degree will be conferred in Spring.

2. J. Schlegel showed how to email the Senate President and access Senate web page, and the information and links to be found there.

3. Senate Support Position: is moving forward. Senate Office (OM 127) open hours will expand when position is filled.

4. Two ways to submit Senate agenda items:

a. via Standing Committee

b. via Senator initiation: see Constitution Article V. Section B.3 – proposals can be made with signatures of three Senators.

### **B. Senate Vice President’s Report – J. Ronan**

The CoC notified 51 of their status in the Fall Willingness to Serve submissions. It continues to assist in the creation and/or revision of mission and bylaws.

### **C. University President’s Report – A. Zayaitz, for Dr. Hawkinson**

The search for VP of Enrollment Management has been advertised. Target date for prospective hire to begin is July 1, 2016.

### **D. Student Government Board Report – J. Scoboria**

1. J. Scoboria stressed the importance of the moved polling place for Maxatawny 3 Precinct. Students marched 5 miles to vote on Tues. Nov. 3. There are 4,500 on-campus students; many have no information about where to vote (both freshmen and students who used to vote at Keystone Hall). 50 students walked, including veteran/U.S. Senate candidate Joe Sestak. J. Scoboria noted this is too important to let go. He looks forward to meeting with the Berks County Commissioners to return the polling place to the center of Precinct from its eastern periphery.

2. J. Scoboria wants to appoint a new SGB leader for the Enrollment Management Search.

3. A major Homecoming event had to be canceled due to celebrity conflict; funds will be used for a special student Sesquicentennial event in Spring.

4. Progress continues to develop a standing Diversity Committee on the SGB to be inclusive to diverse student clubs and organizations.

R. Portada: How can we help with the voting issue?

J. Scoboria: We have to work with the Berks Commissioners. Encourage students to contact them. J Schlegel projected web page of Berks County Commissioners with contact information.

B. McCree: This is voter disenfranchisement: has the ACLU been contacted?

J. Scoboria: Contacted ACLU last year; pursuing lawsuit seemed less productive than trying to work with Commissioners.

J. Lizza: Motion to have Senate send a resolution in support of returning the Maxatawny Three Precinct polling station to Keystone Hall. R. Portada seconded.

A. Morris: Would the Commissioners rather have a new Precinct?

J. Scoboria: That would be highly complex; easier to bring polling station back.

A. Arnold: Can the Senate President designate a Committee to write a letter in support of this?

J. Schlegel: Senators A. Arnold, J. Lizza, A. Morris, R. Portada, with Friend of Senate B. McCree.

Motion to send resolution, crafted by ad hoc committee, approved.

**E. Strategic Planning and Resources Committee (SPRC)– P. Ache**

J. Schlegel: This is informational. SPRC is an advisory committee to the President.

P. Ache: April 2015: committee decided to hold off on changes to Strategic Plan (SP) to allow input of incoming President; KU Trustees approved.

Fall 2015: President/Committee agreed to keep existing SP with the insertion of a Purpose Statement (available on Senate Web Page). This will anchor future decisions for duration of the current SP (2016-17). Await Trustee approval.

SP a living document; revisited annually. SP crafted every 5-7 years.

Key: working from a new model, where initiatives are directed by mission.

A. Zayaitz: SP goals are unchanged; President Hawkinson's 47 Initiatives are tied to them. G. Clary and C. Wells adapted the SP to work with Initiatives. Previously, goals tied to PASSHE Performance Indicators; this is KU focused. Plan is more elastic, unlike previous rigid model.

P. Ache: Purpose Statement largely driven by faculty.

**VIII. As May Arise**

E. Hanna: Military Awareness next week: purchase red buttons for \$1 for Red Fridays. Funds support KU veterans.

**IX. Adjournment:** A. Arnold moved; R.L. Smith seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM

Respectfully submitted:

L. Norris

Secretary, University Senate